

# NATIONAL EPILEPSY LIBRARY®



*Epilepsy affects over 3 million Americans.*

## What is epilepsy??

Epilepsy is a neurological condition. A seizure is a symptom of epilepsy. A diagnosis of epilepsy is generally given after a person experiences two or more unprovoked seizures.

Known causes of epilepsy include head injuries, stroke, brain tumors, poisoning, problems in brain development before birth, and serious infections such as encephalitis or meningitis. However, more than half the time, the cause of epilepsy is unknown.

*The Epilepsy Foundation has a network of affiliates nationwide that provide services in their local communities. To locate an affiliate in your area, call us toll-free or visit our website's home page and type in your zip code under 'community connections.'*

**For more info contact:**

## Program Objectives

The \*National Epilepsy Library®, or NEL, was established in conjunction with the Epilepsy Resource Center at the Epilepsy Foundation, and compliments the services that the Center provides to persons with epilepsy, their families and caregivers, affiliates, professionals, educators and researchers.

The NEL maintains an ever growing database, with more than 30,000 records covering a wide variety of topics on epilepsy and seizure related disorders and comorbid diseases. This unique online database is used by staff at the Epilepsy Resource Center to respond to requests for information.

To supplement this extensive online database, the NEL actively subscribes to national and international journals on epilepsy and seizure disorders, with their collection dating back to 1966.

Although the NEL is not a lending library, it does house books on the latest therapies and progress in epilepsy management and prevention, as well as a special collections section with out-of-print books on early epilepsy history. Librarians are available to provide customized bibliographic searches in response to questions on all epilepsy and seizure related topics.

Some of the topics included in this extensive collection are:

- The effects of epilepsy on distinct populations, such as children, adolescents, adults and the elderly
- New and alternative treatments including surgical procedures
- Medications – their side effects or interaction
- Current research and promising therapies
- Psychological aspects such as mood disorders
- Behavioral and cognitive issues
- Epidemiology
- Special concerns faced by women and men with epilepsy

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## Available Resources

Librarians are available to perform searches and assist with inquiries. They can be reached by calling 1-800-332-4050 extension 3737 between 9am and 5 pm Monday to Friday EST, or by email at [nel@efa.org](mailto:nel@efa.org).